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Since 2016, Somalia has faced climate shocks for eight back-to-back agricultural seasons. From drought to floods and cyclones, these have occurred with increasing frequency and been exacerbated by plant pest outbreaks, including a serious upsurge in desert locusts that all further undermine the food security, nutrition and coping capacities of millions of vulnerable people.

Objectives

FAO is working with partners in the Food Security, Nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and enabling programme clusters to:

- Improve food security and nutrition.
- Protect and restore livelihoods, related food and income sources.
- Build resilience against current and future shocks.

Activities



Enhance food security and resilience

integrated cash and livelihood assistance (cash-for-work, cash+) | livelihood assistance packages (crop, livestock and fisheries) | livestock vaccination and treatment | supplementary livestock feed provision | river embankment repair | desert locust and fall armyworm monitoring and control | livestock disease surveillance | strategic stock of veterinary supplies | farming, (agro)pastoral and coastal fisher field schools



Tackle underlying causes of malnutrition

nutrition awareness raising | training | fish consumption campaigns | food hygiene, conservation and storage | food waste and loss awareness raising | school gardens



Provide information for early warning and early action

Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) | Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) | capacity development of national institutions | monitoring and reporting on markets, food security and nutrition, rainfall performance, vegetation conditions and water levels

Somalia

Humanitarian Response Plan 2020



to assist

3.5 million people



FAO requires

USD 118 million

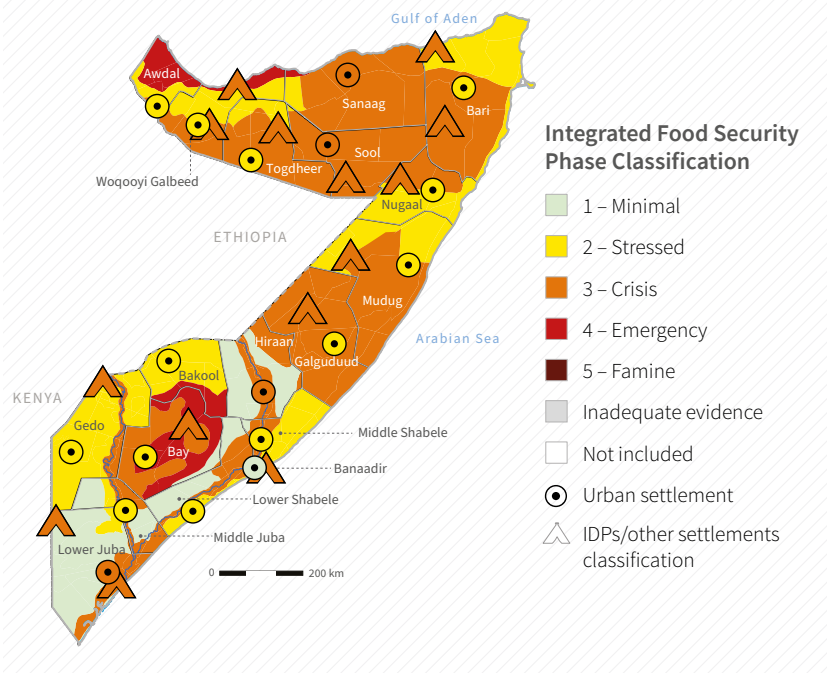


period

January–December 2020

Addressing food insecurity in rural areas requires a multifaceted approach that recognizes and supports the poorest farmers, pastoralists and fishers as producers. FAO delivers a range of assistance to improve rural people's immediate food access and to protect and restore their own food production.

Acute food insecurity situation (October–December 2019)



Source: IPC, August 2019. Conforms to UN Somalia map, December 2011.

Situation analysis



2.1 million people in severe acute food insecurity (IPC 3+)



4.2 million people in IPC Phase 2 – highest number on record



2.6 million internally displaced people



1 million children acutely malnourished

Impact on food security

A total of 6.3 million Somalis were acutely food insecure (IPC Phase 2 and above) through December 2019, up from 4.6 million in late 2018. The situation deteriorated most significantly in rural areas, where the population in IPC 2 to 4 doubled and those in IPC 3 to 4 tripled.

Climate conditions in 2019 were especially harsh for rural populations, with late and erratic rains during Somalia's main *Gu* cropping season in April–June yielding the lowest *Gu* cereal harvest since 1995 in the south of the country (68 percent below the 1995–2018 average). The subsequent *Deyr* season (October–December) brought exceptionally above-average rains and severe river and flash floods to the south-central breadbasket, submerging crops and displacing around half a million people. In December, Cyclone Pawan hit the northeast and exacerbated the desert locust situation in Somalia, which is currently the worst invasion the country has seen in 25 years.

Based on government estimates, fall armyworm is also present on an estimated 320 000 hectares that are under cereal cultivation in southern and central Somalia.

Adverse climate events in Somalia have not only become more frequent, but also less predictable. Over the last two years, rains have not performed according to seasonal forecasts and plant pest outbreaks are further threatening the direct food and income sources of vulnerable rural households, including staple food crops and pasture.

Unlike other types of livelihoods, farming, pastoralism and fishing directly put food on the table of a rural family. Without the harvest, productive livestock or fish catch, these families lack food as well as income to afford food and other basic needs.

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